



State of Rhode Island  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 6a  
August 17, 2021

Angélica Infante-Green  
Commissioner

August 17, 2021

**TO:** Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

**FROM:** Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *A. Infante-Green*

**RE:** **Approval of the Recommendation of Members to the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy Board of Trustees**

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YouthBuild Preparatory Academy (YBPA) is a new public school, authorized by RIGL 16-3.1-21, geared towards providing an alternative-diploma-granting secondary education program for students, ages fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21), who are achieving limited success in their traditional setting. Per RIGL 16-3.1-21, the overall purpose of YBPA is to:

- (i) Support students at risk of school failure, with a special focus on the diverse needs of urban students, to create an environment for individual growth, and to cultivate social and emotional development;
- (ii) Offer a rigorous and relevant standards-driven, experiential learning community, and to provide college and career preparatory education based on guided, project-based core curriculum, with an emphasis on education, human services and community development; and,
- (iii) Provide an alternative learning environment for disconnected and at-risk students desiring to complete their academic careers in a setting that offers comprehensive support services, accelerated academic curriculum, leadership development, and life skills that will enable them to become resilient, self-sufficient adults.

The first step for YBPA to successfully open for the 2022-23 school year is to establish its Board of Trustees. Per RIGL 16-3.1-21, YBPA's Board of Trustees are predominantly appointed by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, with an additional board member being designated by both the Providence School Board and the Central Falls School Committee.

The recommended board members have been interviewed by RIDE staff, including a review of their background, qualifications and goals with participating on YBPA's Board of Trustees, and collectively possess the experience and commitment to advance the goals and mission of the YBPA.

Upon approval of the Board of Trustees and prior to enrolling students for the 2022-23 school year, YBPA must complete a series of additional activities identified by RIDE, such as receiving a positive quality review of their plan from an independent external evaluator, as well as securing a facility and a high-quality school leader. Once RIDE has verified that YBPA has completed these activities, YBPA will formally present their plan to the Council on Elementary for Secondary Education, for formal endorsement.

**Commissioner's recommendations for the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy Board of Trustees:**

- Braxton H. Medlin
- Gloria Johnson
- Juan M. Pichardo
- Mary Harrison
- Matthew Pelletier
- Monica Zeno-Martin
- Robert V. Bailey
- Patrick McGuigan
- Sharon Morris
- Tina Shepard
- Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the appointment of the Board of Trustees for YouthBuild Preparatory Academy, as presented.**